

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /069 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS:LRR

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DOD/ISA - LT. COL. HAVENS

S/S - JPMOFFAT

NSC - COL. KENNEDY

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R 302030Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 263865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 18615

1. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD MAINTAIN BOTH A PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POSTURE OF READINESS TO CONSULT WITH THE THAI ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE U.S. MILITARY FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND. WE HAVE SAID WE WOULD CONSULT AND THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT WE WILL LIVE UP TO OUR COMMITMENT.

2. WE WANT TO BE SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS A REAL CONSULTATION PROCESS. WE WANT TO STEER BETWEEN THE ONE EXTREME OF LETTING THE THAI DICTATE TO US WHAT THEY WANT

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AND THE OTHER (AND MORE LIKELY) EXTREME OF THE THAI SIMPLY

LISTENING TO WHAT WE WANT, INDICATING PRIVATELY THAT OUR PLANS ARE ALL RIGHT WITH THEM, TAKING NO PUBLIC POSITION, AND THEN EITHER ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH US OR DISAVOWING US DEPENDING ON WHAT THE PUBLIC REACTION MIGHT BE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE WANT CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY HELP BRING THE THAI TO REALIZE THAT OUR PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS PART OF A GENUINELY MUTUAL PARTNERSHIP IN WHICH THEIR INTERESTS ARE SERVED AS WELL AS OURS.

3. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE GENUINE CONSULTATIONS OF THIS SORT IF THEY WERE TO BE OPENED WITH A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH WOULD RULE OUT A WHOLE RANGE OF POSSIBLE OUTCOMES. WE THUS DO NOT WANT ANYTHING SAID ALONG THE LINES OF "IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONSULTATIONS A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION CAN BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON."

4. GIVEN THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET WORKED OUT WHAT OUR LONG-TERM DESIRES MIGHT BE, AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT THAI GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABLE TO ENTER INTO LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT SORT OF DISCUSSIONS WE COULD HAVE THIS MONTH. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE THAI POLITICAL SITUATION REQUIRE SOME SORT OF TALKS AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING DECEMBER, THE EMBASSY COULD MEET WITH THE THAI TO REVIEW THE PAST YEAR'S DRAW-DOWNS, TO DISCUSS WHERE WE ARE NOW, TO TELL THEM THAT WE ARE WORKING OUT WHAT WE THINK MIGHT BE PROPER FUTURE FORCE LEVELS, AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE THINKING ABOUT WHAT THEY MIGHT WANT. WE REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY HAD CONVERSATIONS OF THIS SORT, BUT WE DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN GO FURTHER AT THE PRESENT TIME. YOUR MEETING COULD BE FOLLOWED BY A PUBLIC STATEMENT, IF NECESSARY, THAT "THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY REGARDING U.S. FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND DURING THE MONTHS TO COME."
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